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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
ART UNIT 3681

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Pecnik et al. Confirmation No.:  
Serial No. : 09/184,553  
Filed : November 2, 1998  
TC/A.U. : 3681  
Examiner : Ha Dinh Ho

Docket No. : 05-193  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated November 10, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire February 10, 2006, having been extended for three months so as to expire on May 10, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 5 of this paper.